

## **LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS**

"I once again commend Governor Schwarzenegger for his courage and wisdom in proposing comprehensive solutions to the serious problems facing our state. These plans have great potential to draw support from all sides of the political spectrum. During his inaugural speech last week, the Governor vowed to work in a bipartisan manner for the benefit of all Californians. I applaud him for following through on that promise.

"Tonight we heard one man's vision for California. The admirable goals of bringing health care to all, protecting the environment, improving our infrastructure, addressing population growth, and stabilizing the state budget are all critical to this state's future. I share the Governor's vision on those issues.

"In recent days Governor Schwarzenegger has rightfully launched this state's leadership into a full-fledged assault on the greatest ills facing California. Like me, he is concerned about the legacy this generation of leadership will leave behind. Will it be a flawed legacy, marred by a failure to deliver health care to all? Will it miss the urgent opportunity to stop the deterioration of our environment? Will it leave behind failing schools and a stagnant economy? Or, will our leaders put aside partisan differences to work together and build a stronger, better California - one that fully delivers to all the immense promise this Golden State has to offer? I, for one, am committed to see that the latter occurs.

"In my inaugural speech on Sunday, I too called for medical coverage for all Californians. Our state is simply too great to stand by while people die, or are stripped of all their wealth, simply because they cannot obtain health coverage. We have the knowledge and potential to reverse the looming environmental crisis. With dedication, we can halt the slide of our education system, building it once again into the finest public education system in the world. And we can grow our economy, creating jobs and building a strong future for the generations to come.

"Thankfully, Governor Schwarzenegger's actions in recent days, as well as those of our legislative leaders, make it clear that a strong bipartisan air is indeed blowing through this Capitol. With partnership, we can deliver real solutions to make California stronger and better. I pledge to work in concert with all of our leaders to help deliver on these new winds of promise."

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